

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION FOR THE MEMBERS OF WHITEWATER VALLEY REMC

*Comments from your CEO*

**WE'RE LOOKING OUT FOR YOU!**

**Safety Comes First**

Safety is, of course, one of the main concerns of a business. At Whitewater Valley REMC, we care about your safety. That is why we try to bring some of that safety awareness to our members with our portable safety demonstration, radio and television ads, and articles in our monthly newsletter. Our goal is to create public awareness and understanding of potential safety hazards – and how they can be avoided.



**Boyd Huff, CEO**

The cooperative offers free electrical safety demonstrations to teach groups of all ages how we can enjoy the benefits of electricity while avoiding some of the most common dangers. While the program started as a safety project geared toward elementary students, the demonstration has been customized to fit any age group and type of business.

If you are interested in having a safety demonstration at your school, civic group,

or company, please give us a call at 800-529-5557.

**Energy Efficiency**

Another way we are looking out for you involves using our free online Touchstone Energy Home Energy Audit tool. The easy-to-use online energy audit

tool is designed to help you identify the best ways to save energy in your home. (The hidden acct number this month is 705600)



**Touchstone Energy**  
**HOME ENERGY AUDIT®**

Why would the folks selling electricity help you use less of it? Because we are a not-for-profit cooperative and our priority is delivering, reliable electricity at the lowest possible cost, as safely as possible.

Visit our website at [www.wvwremc.com](http://www.wvwremc.com) to begin your audit. ●

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

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**Liberty Office Hours:**

7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday  
 Closed Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays

**To Report an Outage or Emergency:**

- Call 765.458.5171 or 1.800.529.5557 24 hours a day, 7 days a week
- Be ready to provide the following information:
  - The name and account number under which your electric service is listed
  - Map location number
  - Your phone number—needed to call back or confirm power restoration
  - The type of problem you are experiencing –flickering lights, complete power outage, etc.

**We appreciate your call and will work promptly to assist you.**

**Questions for Boyd**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Account No.: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

My question or comment is: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

*If you have any questions for Boyd, please call 1.800.529.5557 or 765.458.5171. You may also e-mail Boyd Huff at [bhuff@wvwremc.com](mailto:bhuff@wvwremc.com)*



**WHITEWATER VALLEY**  
 RURAL ELECTRIC MEMBERSHIP CORPORATION

101 Brownsville Avenue  
 P.O. Box 349  
 Liberty, IN 47353  
 Phone: 765.458.5171  
 1.800.529.5557  
 E-mail: [info@wvwremc.com](mailto:info@wvwremc.com)

**President & CEO - Boyd Huff**  
**Powerlines Editor - Sandy Cason**

**For up-to-date information, visit us on the web at [www.wvwremc.com](http://www.wvwremc.com).**

## Farm Electrical Safety is Never Out of Season

The risk of electrocution remains one of the greatest hazards on today's farms. Before heading back into the fields this fall, Safe Electricity reminds farm workers to be particularly alert to dangers working near overhead power lines, and urges review of farm activities and work practices that take place around all electric lines.

"Educate all who work on the farm about power line hazards," says Molly Hall, Executive Director of Safe Electricity.

"Make sure everyone knows the location of overhead power lines and remind workers to keep farm equipment at least 10 feet away from them."

Before excavating or digging, Hall also reminds farmers to call the local underground utility locator service.

"Keep in mind, the minimum 10 foot

**“Educate all who work on the farm about power line hazards.”**

distance is a 360-degree rule – below, to the side and above lines," reminds Hall. "It may take a little more time, but ensuring proper clearance can save lives."

Simply coming too close to a power line while working is dangerous as electricity can arc or "jump" to conducting material or objects, such as a ladder, pole or a truck.

"Many farm electrical accidents involving power lines occur when loading or preparing to transport equipment to fields, or while working on farm machinery near power lines," notes Bob Aherin, University of Illinois Agricultural Safety Specialist.

"Sometimes a power line is closer than it looks. When moving large equipment or

high loads near a power line, always use a spotter to help ensure that contact is not made with a line."

Be aware of increased height when loading and transporting tractors on trailer beds. Also avoid raising the arms of planters, cultivators or truck beds near power lines.



Be aware that many tractors are now equipped with radios and communications systems that have antennas extending from the cab to fifteen feet above the ground that could make contact with power lines.

"Never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path," warns Aherin.

When performing other farm chores, as in any outdoor work, be careful not to raise any equipment such as ladders, poles or rods into power lines. Remember, non-metallic materials such as lumber, tree limbs, tires, ropes and hay will conduct electricity depending on dampness and dust and dirt contamination. Do not try to clear storm-damage debris and limbs near or touching power lines or near fallen lines.

The overhead electric wires aren't the only electrical contact that can result in a serious incident. Pole guy wires are grounded to the neutral; but, when one of the guy wires is broken, it can cause an electric current disruption. This can make those neutral wires anything but harmless. If you hit a guy wire and break it, call the utility to fix it. Don't do it yourself. When dealing with electrical poles and wires, always call the electric utility.

"Operators of farm machinery or moving equipment also should know what to do if the vehicle comes in contact with a power

line," Hall said. "It's almost always best to stay in the cab and call for help. Warn others who may be nearby to stay away and wait until the electric utility arrives to make sure power to the line is cut off."

**“Never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path.”**

"If the power line is energized and you step outside, your body becomes the path to the ground and electrocution is the result," Aherin said. "Even if a power line has landed on the ground, there is still the potential for the area nearby to be energized. Stay inside the vehicle unless there's fire or imminent risk of fire."

In that case, the proper action is to jump – not step – with both feet hitting the ground at the same time. Do not allow any part of your body to touch the equipment and the ground at the same time. Continue to shuffle or hop to safety, keeping both feet together as you leave the area.

Once you get away from the equipment, never attempt to get back on or even touch the equipment. Many electrocutions occur when the operator dismounts and, realizing nothing has happened, tries to get back on the equipment.

Farmers may want to consider moving or burying power lines around buildings or busy pathways where many farm activities take place. If planning a new out building or farm structure, contact your power supplier for information on minimum safe clearances from overhead and underground power lines.

Safe Electricity is an electrical safety public awareness program created and supported by a coalition of several dozen organizations, including electric cooperatives, educators and other entities committed to promoting electrical safety. ●

Source: Safe Electricity

# Interested in Serving the Cooperative?

The governing body of Whitewater Valley Rural Electric Cooperative is a nine-member board of directors, which meets monthly to decide on policies, review cooperative business, and make decisions affecting the entire cooperative.

The cooperative's service territory is divided into three districts. Each district is represented by three board members.

The Nominating Committee members meet each year to consider all members who are interested in running for the board. This year, the Nominating Committee meeting will be held at the cooperative office, 101 Brownsville Avenue, Liberty in December.

For additional information on becoming a board member for Whitewater Valley Rural Electric Cooperative, complete the Board Interest Form to the right and return to Dave Williamson, Nominating Committee Chair, at 9442 WE Oler Road, Williamsburg, IN 47393. ●

## Board of Directors Interest Card

(Please answer all items below. **Return by November 1, 2007.**)



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Account #: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone #: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ (    ) \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Work

Address of Residence: \_\_\_\_\_

Township of Residence: \_\_\_\_\_ County of Residence: \_\_\_\_\_

I am interested in the opportunity of being nominated as a member of the Board of Directors for Whitewater Valley Rural Electric Corporation and would appreciate receiving additional information regarding the nominating process.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature Date

### Nominating Committee

Name	Districts	Name	Districts
Gary Ruf	South	Robert Westover	Central
Fred Shamblin	South	Duane Cates	North
Robert Wagner	South	Robert Nocton	North
Beth Houghland	Central	Dave Williamson	North
David Stanley	Central		

Mail to: Dave Williamson, Nominating Committee Chair, 9442 WE Oler Rd, Williamsburg, IN 47393



## Important News!

We are changing our *Powerlines* insert schedule for Cycle 4 billing customers. Beginning this month, Cycle 4 bills will have the most recent *Powerlines* newsletter (September issue) mailed with their regular power bill. So that you do not miss any cooperative news, we have also included the August issue of the newsletter with this bill. Next month Cycle 4 billing customers will go back to a one-month *Powerlines* insert.

We hope this change will enhance our communications to those members who have been receiving their monthly newsletter towards the end of the month. For example, Cycle 4 bills mailed on August 24 would have received the August *Powerlines* at the same time. Now the same Cycle 4 bills will include the September issue of our newsletter. ●

## CALL BEFORE YOU DIG



Whitewater Valley REMC is a member of the Indiana

Underground Plan Protections Services

(IUPPS). Any time you are going to dig on your property, you must call IUPPS for a locate. Call 8-1-1 or 800-382-5544 at least two working days before you dig. When you call, you will need to know your county and township along with some questions concerning the digging itself.

## Energy Use: Myths and Facts

As energy costs continue to rise, consumers are looking for ways to reduce their energy use. Although there are a lot of good ideas out there, there are a lot of misconceptions as well about what is really effective. Here are some of the most common myths and the facts to set you on the right path.

**Myth:** Computers, monitors, and other office equipment will use less energy and last longer if they are left running all of the time.

**Fact:** Turning equipment off overnight does not shorten its life, and the small surge of power that occurs when some devices are turned on is much smaller than the energy used by running equipment when it is not needed. In fact, leaving computers and other office equipment

on overnight and on weekends wastes significant amounts of energy and also adds to the wear and tear on the equipment. In general, turn off equipment you are not using or make sure that energy-saving features on networks or individual machines are enabled. Some office equipment, including printers and scanners, features small transformers that use energy even when the equipment is turned off. Plug all such devices into a power strip so that they can be shut down completely with one flick of the switch.

**Myth:** I should run my HVAC 24/7 to avoid an increased demand charge from the "spike" that occurs when the equipment starts.

**Fact:** Although turning on HVAC equipment will cause a power spike on the order of fractions of a second, this period is not long enough to have any impact on demand charges. Demand charges are based on the average power used in a facility during 15-minute periods. The spike from turning on such equipment does not last long

enough to significantly affect this average. Not only are there no significant demand savings from running HVAC equipment continuously, but there is a significant downside as well. Equipment life can be considerably shortened, and unless the equipment is designed to operate at continuously variable capacities, it likely will not be able to properly match the cooling load and will waste energy and decrease comfort. ●

Source: © 2007 E Source Companies LLC



### Find the Hidden Account Number!

Harold Ozburn found his hidden account number in the July issue and won a \$25 bill credit. Keep reading your *Powerlines* each month or browsing our website—the next hidden account number could be yours!

### September Due Dates

The September due dates for payment of your electric bills are September 3, 10, 19 and 26.

Remember, we recommend that you allow three to five business days for the mail to reach the payment processing center. That way, you'll never run the risk of being late.

### Payment Options

**US Mail:** Send your payment to:  
Whitewater Valley REMC  
P.O. Box 3199  
Martinsville, IN 46151-3168

**Internet:** Log-on at [www.wvwremc.com](http://www.wvwremc.com)

**Liberty Office:** In person or in the drop box

**Automatic Withdrawal:** Simply request a form and submit it to our office

**FCN or Franklin County National Bank:**

*In person or in the drop box  
(Please bring your payment stub with you)*

**United Communities National Bank Richmond Branch:** *In person or in the drop box  
(Please bring your payment stub with you)*

*If you would like more information about payment options, call 765-458-5171 or 1-800-529-5557.*



Take a bite  
into great  
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Valley REMC!

Rates as low as  
**4.9¢\***  
per minute!

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- ☀ Long distance as low as 4.9¢\* per minute!
- ☀ Toll-free number as low as 5.9¢\* per minute!
- ☀ Competitive business rates available. Please call for details!
- ☀ You don't have to be a Whitewater Valley REMC customer to sign-up!

**1-877-808-5000**

**Whitewater  
Valley REMC**

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative

\*Taxes and other regulatory charges not included. Certain restrictions and early termination fees may apply. Rates stated are for Indiana. Please call for details. In partnership with TransWorld Network.